



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Santa Ana Region



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Agency Secretary

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

May 2, 2006

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

STAKEHOLDER MEETING: 2006 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN – SANTA ANA RIVER BASIN (BASIN PLAN)

To Solicit Comments on the Draft Priority List of Basin Planning Issues to be
Considered for Review during the Next 3 Years

WHEN: JUNE 6, 2006, 1:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

WHERE: "CALIFORNIA TOWER" OFFICE BUILDING, 3737 MAIN STREET, SUITE 200 (HIGH GROVE CONFERENCE ROOM), RIVERSIDE, CA

The Regional Board is beginning the 2006 triennial review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (Basin Plan). The last triennial review of the Basin Plan was conducted in 2002.

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Division 7 of the California Water Code), and the Federal Clean Water Act both mandate periodic review of water quality control plans. Section 13240 of the Water Code requires, "Each regional board shall formulate and adopt water quality control plans for all areas within the region... *Such plans shall be periodically reviewed and may be revised.*" Section 303 (c) (1) of the Federal Clean Water Act requires, "... the water pollution control agency of such State shall from time to time (*but at least once each three year period*) hold public hearings for the purpose of reviewing applicable water quality standards and, as appropriate, modifying and adopting standards." Because the review mandated by the Clean Water Act takes place every three years, it is termed a "Triennial Review".

A number of new and emerging Basin Plan issues have been identified by Regional Board staff for consideration in the next Triennial Review and many issues remain from earlier triennial reviews. These issues are shown on the attached list. As you can see, the list is already quite extensive. The resources needed to complete the work identified substantially exceed the resources available. (Approximately 2 person-years, per year, for Basin Planning work, and approximately 8 person years, per year, for TMDL- related work, are available.) Accordingly, staff has listed the items in proposed priority order.

California Environmental Protection Agency



Recycled Paper

Regional Board staff will hold a public meeting to solicit public comments on and recommendations for changes to this list, including the addition or deletion of issues and their priority on the list. The public meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2006, at the place and time shown above. This meeting will be followed by a Regional Board workshop and a public hearing, tentatively scheduled for the Board's August 25, 2006, meeting, at which the Regional Board will be asked to consider adoption of the Triennial Review list.

We welcome your review of and comments on the issues proposed for the 2006 Triennial Review. Information about Basin Plan issues that have not been included on the draft list, or that would provide a more complete understanding of a particular issue, is also welcome. Review of the issues on the Triennial Review list may or may not result in an amendment to the Basin Plan. The need for a Basin Plan amendment will be determined by staff investigation following the Regional Board's placement of a particular issue on the Triennial Review Priority List. In general, the issues included on the Triennial Review Priority List will be addressed as resources become available.

Board staff would appreciate receiving written comments on issues identified on the Draft Triennial Review Priority List by June 2, 2006, to be able to discuss them at the June 6, 2006, meeting. Submittal of comments by e-mail is encouraged. Comments or questions regarding this matter should be directed to Dave Woelfel, staff environmental scientist, at (951) 782-7960 (e-mail address: dwoelfel@waterboards.ca.gov) or Mark Adelson, senior environmental scientist, at (951) 782-3234 (e-mail address: madelson@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer

Attachment



Initial Draft 2006 Basin Plan Triennial Review Priority List

| Issue No. | Issue Description | Estimated Basin Planning Staff Resources ¹ (PYs) (Supporting stakeholders, if any, are shown in parentheses) 2006-2008 |
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| 1. | Amend the Basin Plan to include a prohibition on the use of septic tank subsurface disposal systems in the Quail Valley area. | 1.0 ² |
| 2. | Consider revisions to REC-1 and REC-2 beneficial uses and bacterial water quality objectives for surface waters based on USEPA's national criteria (<i>E.coli</i> and/or enterococci) and the recommendations of the Storm Water Quality Standards Task Force (SWQSTF). SWQSTF recommendations are now likely to include: 1) adoption of a limited REC-1 beneficial use definition and limited REC-1 designation of certain waters; 2) adoption of a high flow suspension of REC-1 standards; 3) de-designation of certain waters from REC ³ . Add rationale for the 2.2 mpn/100 ml Coliform discharge limit for POTWs discharging to the Santa Ana River and its tributaries. | 0.6 (SWQSTF) |
| 3. | TMDL Basin Plan amendments, newly adopted or revised (e.g., for Newport Bay/San Diego Creek, Middle Santa Ana River Watershed, Big Bear Lake, Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore). | 24 ⁴ |

¹ Basin Planning resources, unless otherwise noted. 2.0 personnel years (PY) per year of Basin Planning resources are currently available.

² Enforcement program staff resources

³ A Use Attainability Analysis will be required for these activities

⁴ TMDL program resources

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| 4. | Reformat / republish Basin Plan to incorporate BP amendments since 1994, including NPDES compliance schedule authorization language, revised N-TDS water quality objectives and management strategies, and TMDLs. Includes revised maps and graphics. | 0.3 |
| 5. | Triennial reviews of adopted TMDLs (per TMDL schedules/requirements). | 3 ⁵ |
| 6. | Consider revisions to SHEL beneficial use definition (addition of beneficial use for shellfish harvesting for bait purposes, not human consumption) and re-designation of appropriate waters. | 0.1 (County of Orange) |
| 7. | Develop/revise nutrient objectives for region, focusing on 303(d) - listed waters, including San Diego Creek, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, Big Bear Lake and its tributaries. | 3 ⁶ |
| 8. | Add a water quality objective narrative regarding the excessive growth of macrophyte aquatic plants or combine with existing algae narrative objective. | 0.1 ⁷ |
| 9. | Develop criteria for wetlands impact mitigation. Revise narrative to expand wetland definition and description of 401 process. | 0.2 (USEPA ⁸) |
| 10. | Remove site-specific objectives for copper, cadmium, and lead for middle Santa Ana River reaches and their tributaries. | 0.1 |
| 11. | Revise numeric objective for residual chlorine for discharges to surface waters. | 0.1 |
| 12. | Review ammonia objectives based on 1999 USEPA national criteria. | 0.1 |

⁵ TMDL program resources

⁶ TMDL program resources

⁷ TMDL program resources

⁸ Partially funded by a USEPA grant.

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| 13. | Update Beneficial Use Table 3-1 and Water Quality Objectives Table 4-1 (modified from 2002 Basin Plan Triennial Review list): | 0.3 |
| 13.1 | <p>Add beneficial use designations (Table 3-1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Add COMM to appropriate lakes, reservoirs, and streams; b. Add RARE to appropriate waters, including all reaches of San Diego Creek, valley reaches of Lytle, Cajon, and City Creeks, Reaches 4 & 5 of the San Jacinto River (from SR 79 to Ramona Expressway), North Fork of San Jacinto River and Reach 7 of San Jacinto River, Sunnyslope Creek, Reach 4 of Santa Ana River, the Shay Meadows wetland and Baldwin Lake; c. Add SPAWN to appropriate waters, such as Mountain Home Creek, Lytle Creek, San Antonio Creek, North Fork and Reach 7 of San Jacinto River, and Reach 3 & 4 of the Santa Ana River; d. Add WILD to Reaches 4 & 5 of the San Jacinto River. | |
| 13.2. | <p>Add new reaches and designate appropriate beneficial uses (Table 3-1 and Table 4.1): Changes needed as a result of FERC relicensing (modified from 2002 Basin Plan Triennial Review List):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lytle Creek from 1-15 to Turk Point or Miller Narrows - change to I-COLD and list as Reach 1; b. Mill Creek from SAR to Highway 38 - list as Reach 1; c. Mill Creek from Highway 38 to above Mountain Home Village - list as Reach 2; d. Mill Creek from Mountain Home Village to upper diversion, Forest Falls - change to I-COLD and list as Reach 3; e. Mill Creek upper diversion to headwaters - list as Reach 4; f. SAR from Seven Oaks Dam to Power House 1 - change to I-COLD and list as Reach 6; g. SAR from Power House 1 to headwaters – list as Reach 7. | <p>0.1 (SBVMWD and SCE)</p> |
| 13.3. | <p>Changes needed to reflect existing hydrology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h. San Diego Creek from upper Newport Bay to drop structure at Macarthur Blvd - add Reach name and EST; i. Erwin Lake - revise beneficial uses to intermittent. | 0.1 |

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| 14. | Remove Laguna and Lambert Reservoirs from Lakes and Reservoirs section of Table 3-1 and Table 4-1. Add the creeks that remain to Table 3-1 and 4-1, and assign appropriate WQS. | 0.1 (The Irvine Company) |
| 15. | <p>Add the following waters to Tables 3-1 and 4-1 and assign WQS (expanded from 2002 Basin Plan Triennial Review list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Add Buck Gully, Los Trancos Canyon Creek, Muddy Canyon Creek, Pelican Hill Waterfall, Pelican Point Creek, Pelican Point Middle Creek, and assign REC-1, possibly Limited REC-1, REC-2, WARM, and WILD; b. Add Santa Ana Delhi Channel; Reach 1 from Upper Newport Bay to Mesa Drive and assign REC-1, REC-2, EST, WARM, WILD, and RARE; Reach 2 from Mesa Drive to headwaters (beginning of Santa Ana Gardens and Delhi Channels) and assign REC-2, WARM, WILD and possibly REC-1 or Limited REC-1⁹; c. Add Laguna Lake (in Fullerton) and assign REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD, COMM; d. Add East Garden Grove Wintersburg, Anaheim-Barber City, and Bolsa Chica Channels and assign REC-2, WILD, WARM and possibly REC-1 or limited REC-1; e. Add Carbon, Fullerton, and Brea Creeks (San Gabriel River drainages) and assign REC-2, WILD, WARM, and possibly REC-1 or limited REC-1. f. Add Mystic Lake and assign REC-1 or limited REC-1, REC-2, RARE, WARM, WILD | 0.4 |
| 16. | Add waters in the Goodhart Canyon Watershed to Santa Ana Region and assign water quality standards. (Drainage has been altered by the construction of Diamond Valley Reservoir's East Dam). | 0.1 |
| 17. | Add narrative on implementation procedures for narrative turbidity and toxicity objectives. | 0.1 |
| 18. | Revise Chapter 5 Prohibitions Applying to Inland Surface Waters (saline and sewage discharges) and modify to explicitly include lakes. | 0.1 |
| 19. | Revise Chapter 3 Beneficial Use tables narrative to incorporate Tributary Rule. | 0.1 |

⁹ Removing REC-1 will require the completion of an use attainability analysis

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| 20. | Consider revisions to make clear that water quality standards apply to intermittent surface waters, as well as perennial waters. | 0.1 |
| 21. | Consider revisions to recognize importance of headwaters as a separate class or category of waters, and of protecting their WQS. | 0.3 |
| 22. | Develop waste discharge prohibitions for excessive sedimentation resulting from controllable water quality factors (targeted at excessive sedimentation in upper Newport Bay, Big Bear Lake, and Lake Elsinore Watersheds). | 0.3 |
| 23. | Consider need for clarification of Chapter 5 Minimum Lot Size Requirements and Exemption Criteria for new Developments (using on-site sewage disposal systems). | 0.1 |
| 24. | Non-regulatory, descriptive updates and revisions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Add narrative on Alaska Rule; b. Update information on approved policies (e.g., Nonpoint Source Enforcement Policy, 303(d) Listing Policy) (Chapter 2); c. Update Chapter 5 "Disposal of hazardous and Nonhazardous Waste" to reflect loss of SWAT program; d. Update SLIC Program Discussion; e. Update Animal Confinement Facilities (Dairies) discussion in Chapter 5; f. Update Nonpoint Source Program discussion in Chapter 5. | 0.1 |
| 25. | Update the discussion of implementation of the antidegradation policy in Chapter 2 to address non-point source pollution. | 0.1 |
| 26. | Reevaluate temperature criteria to ensure full protection of aquatic life. | 0.2 |
| 27. | Update dissolved oxygen objectives for WARM/COLD beneficial uses. | 0.1 |
| 28. | Review silver water quality objective for groundwater. | 0.1 |
| 29. | Revise fluoride WQO to be consistent with Basin Plans of RB4 & 9, and with DHS and Federal MCLs. | 0.1 (MWD of So. Calif.) |

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| 30. | Develop and adopt biological criteria for managing water quality. | 1.0 (SWRCB) |
| 31. | Santa Ana River, Reach 3 – add TOC WQO. | 0.1 |
| 32. | Review Methylene Blue-Activated Substances (MBAS) water quality objective for surface waters. | 0.1 |
| 33. | Santa Ana River, Reach 3 – clarify the COD water quality objective. | 0.1 |